

# Commemorative \$2 bill back for the Bicentennial?

By Roger Boye

THE \$2 BILL could be revived to help mark the Bicentennial if a numismatic proposal is adopted by the federal government.

The printing of \$2 bills was stopped in 1966. But some collectors are now ask-

ing the government to produce \$2 bills once again.

For example, Gene Hessler, curator of the Chase Manhattan Bank Money Museum, wants the government to produce a commemorative \$2 bill that would include the scene of the signing of the Declaration of In-

dependence.

Hessler wants the commemorative \$2 bill to be slightly larger than present circulating currency and to be printed in several colors.

William Simon says the Treasury Department is considering Hessler's proposal. A bill in the United States

House of Representatives, which is given some chance of passage, calls for a \$2 note with a Bicentennial theme.

The \$2 bill was first issued in 1862, but was never popular and did not circulate widely.

But Bicentennial or not,

some Treasury Department administrators are studying the possibility of reintroducing the \$2 bill to general circulation. If \$2 bills were used, the government could reduce the number of \$1 notes and save on printing costs, or so the reasoning goes.

The \$2 bill found most often in collectors' hands today are the U. S. Notes, series 1953 and 1963. Most dealers sell uncirculated 1963 and 1963-A notes for about \$5. The uncirculated 1953, 1953-A, 1953-B, and 1953-C notes sell for about \$8.